

Lisa Peterson
Commissioner

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4800
TTD 617-349-4805

RECEIVED
2010 JUL -8 PM 1:17
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager
From: David Lefcourt, City Arborist
Date: July 8th, 2010
RE: June 30th, 2010 Tree Hearing

The following is the list of trees heard on June 30th, 2010: Objections to specific removals are attached.

1. 47 Chilton St – Removal of 22.5" Norway maple tree due to significant dieback within the canopy and wounding and decay pockets along trunk. Location will be replanted. – **Objections rec'd.**
2. 4 Buckingham St – Removal of 11.5" littleleaf linden due to large wound along tree. Location will be replanted – **No objections rec'd**
3. 555 Concord Ave (on Wheeler St) – Removal of 6 ash trees (8.8", 10.4", 17.6", 12.3", 13.5" & 13.7") for drainage construction project. Location will be replanted. – **Objections rec'd**
4. 30 Bay St – Removal of 18.6" pear tree due to storm damage and poor structure. Location will be replanted. – **No objections rec'd**
5. 514 Franklin St (on Bay St) – Removal of 19.3" pear tree due to storm damage and poor structure. Location will be replanted. – **No objections rec'd**

DESCRIPTION: Item #1 – 47 Chilton St

The Public Tree Removal Hearing for the tree at 47 Chilton St was initiated by the City Arborist. A concerned resident contacted the Forestry Division regarding the health of the Norway maple.

During my field inspection, I noticed the tree had some significant dieback within the canopy. There are several wounds and old pruning cuts along the trunk and leaders which have led to the development of decay pockets. Branches have failed on this tree in previous storm events.



RECOMMENDATION:

After reviewing the comments made by all concerned parties, it is my recommendation that the Norway maple be removed. The existing condition of the tree presents a high risk to public safety and should be removed.

DESCRIPTION: Items #3 – 555 Concord Ave (on Wheeler St)

The Public Tree Removal Hearing for the 6 trees at 555 Concord Ave (on Wheeler St) was initiated by the City Arborist. A major drainage construction project is to take place on Wheeler St, and a box culvert planned for this location would require the removal of these trees.

During my field inspection, I noticed the trees ranged from fair to poor condition. Due to previously existing overhead utilities and the subsequent utility pruning, the forms of the trees have been altered.

At the tree removal hearing, DPW Project Coordinator Catherine Woodbury and SEA Consultant's Project Manager Vin Spada presented a project overview. This box culvert is needed to facilitate future sewer separation in the large section of West Cambridge, providing connection between the neighborhood and a new outfall in the Alewife Brook. They indicated that the project team's hydraulic study found Wheeler Street to be the only possible route for this gravity-fed box culvert, and that existing utilities in Wheeler Street limit the available corridor to that impacting the roots of the six trees noted above.

They stated that 14 trees are currently planned as replacements, to be planted on the same side of Wheeler Street. The project team expressed a willingness to consult with the Public Planting Committee at an upcoming meeting about the details of the planting plan, to ensure the best possible outcome once the area is replanted.

RECOMMENDATION:

After reviewing the comments made by all concerned parties, it is my recommendation that the 6 ash trees at 555 Concord Ave (on Wheeler St) be removed. The city has looked at all potential options for installing the box culvert, and unfortunately it requires the removal of these 6 trees to complete this significant sewer separation project. The condition of the existing trees range from fair to poor condition, and due to previously existing overhead utilities and the subsequent utility pruning, the forms of the trees have been altered. The area will be replanted with 14 new trees in more suitable locations which will hopefully over time create a beautiful streetscape.

Please note that, as described in my memo related to the May 5th, 2010 tree hearing, I have recommended that 9 of the 13 trees previously heard for possible removal on Wheeler Street be retained.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Cc: Lisa Peterson, Public Works Commissioner

Attachments: Bass, Kays, Tyson, Miller, Malcolm and Murray – 47 Chilton St
Murray, Podgers, Diehl and Barrett – 555 Concord Ave (on Wheeler St)

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

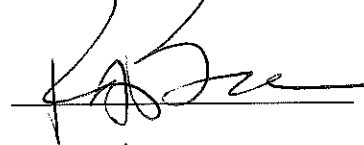
To: David Lefcourt, City of Cambridge Arborist

Subject: Opposition to the planned removal of a Norway maple at 47 Chilton Street.

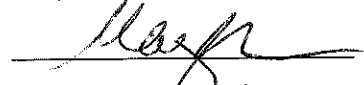
We the undersigned owners of the Condominiums at 47 Chilton are unanimously opposed to the removal of the Norway maple at 47 Chilton Street in Cambridge. Although this tree has obviously declined, we request that it be trimmed of all dead branches and that it be left standing. It still provides shade and beauty to the street and helps hide the wires. A new small tree would take years to grow to provide an equivalent canopy.

While there are some small cavities in the trunk, we understand that generally they do not affect the strength.

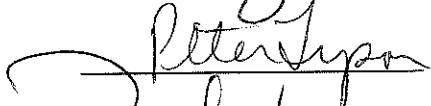
We would be glad to take responsibility for the trimming of the dead branches.



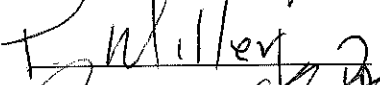
Richard Bass, Unit One



Nancy Kays, Unit One



Peter Tyson, Unit Two



Phil Miller, Unit Three


Tyson

Courtney Malcolm, Unit Two

Three

all owners of 47 Chilton Street.

To: Cambridge City Arborist David Lefcourt
From: Tara Murray
6-30-10

Dear Mr. Lefcourt,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed removal of the Norway maple at 47 Chilton Street.

As a neighbor to this tree, I have seen it very frequently. In addition, I have closely looked at the tree and I have spoken to the neighbors.

As we all know, the tree has decline in the canopy and although it will not last forever, there is a lot of life in the tree still. This tree simply needs trimming of some dead branches. The tree still provides shade and beauty which a new small tree would not for years to come.

As far as the statements of, "wounding," and "decay pockets," I feel that these areas on the tree do not rise to the level of "hazardous." As stated by the arborist, most large older trees have a decay pocket. These inside pockets do not pose a hazard risk because it does not impact the strength of the outside of the tree.

Please simply trim the tree and allow the neighbors to enjoy it for some years to come.

Tara Murray

Fosher, Catherine

From: Mallory, Leslie
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2010 5:50 PM
To: lbarnes@tiac.net
Cc: Lefcourt, David; Woods, Richard; Fosher, Catherine; Rodibaugh, Annette
Subject: RE: Service Request Form

Dear Dr. Barnes,

Your concern/request has been forwarded to Mr. David Lefcourt, City Arborist, in our 'Parks & Urban Forestry Division.' You may reach him at 617-349-6433. You may also call his Administrative Assistant, Ms. Catherine Fosher, at 617-349-4885. Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Service Request Form
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2010 7:38 PM
To: Service Requests
Subject: Service Request Form

The following information was sent from the Service Request form on the City of Cambridge website.

Type of comment: Complaint

General topic: Tree Service Request

Comments: I live on Franklin Street, close to the corner of Franklin Street and Bay. Within the past week, I have seen notices about a public hearing related to two pear trees on Bay Street.

Last year, a large branch fell off of one of these two trees, and landed on my car. It shattered both the rear window and rear driver's side window, as well as leaving a large dent in the roof of the car.

More recently, another large branch fell into a yard that adjoins the sidewalk where the tree grows.

Although in general I feel strongly about protecting and preserving trees in Cambridge, I feel equally strongly that these two trees have grown to the point where they pose a risk. Branches could just as easily have hit a person.

I am writing to voice support for these two trees being cut down.

Thank you,

Dr. Linda L. Barnes

Name: Dr. Linda L. Barnes
Address: 534 Franklin Street
City: Cambridge
State: MA
Zip: 02139
Phone:
E-mail: lbarnes@tiac.net

Lefcourt, David

From: Joyce Singer [joycepsinger@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2010 5:24 PM
To: CambridgeTrees
Subject: 2 trees on Bay St.

Hi, I am in favor of removing these trees since there have been a few incidents involving parts of these trees falling and the structure of the tree is poor. I see that they will be replanted.
It this adequate or should I write to David Lefcourt? I am unable to make the hearing.

Thanks,
Joyce
Joyce P. Singer, Lic.Ac.
524A Franklin St.
Cambridge MA 02139
617-868-8885
<http://www.joycepsinger.com>

Lefcourt, David

From: Dianah Barrett [dianah.barrett@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 4:44 PM
To: Lefcourt, David
Cc: Sarah Diehl
Subject: Please do not Remove the Trees Wheeler Street

Dear Mr. David Lefcourt,

I am writing to request that the trees not be removed on Wheeler Street. Signs were placed on the trunks of these trees and I would like to voice my opposition in writing to the removal of these trees. These trees are not an immediate danger or hazard and they certainly have a some wonderful years of life in them. Let us enjoy these trees while we can instead of needlessly cutting them down. In addition, these trees have become the home of red tail hawks and other wildlife that residents in the area of come to enjoy.

Sincerely,
Dianah Barrett

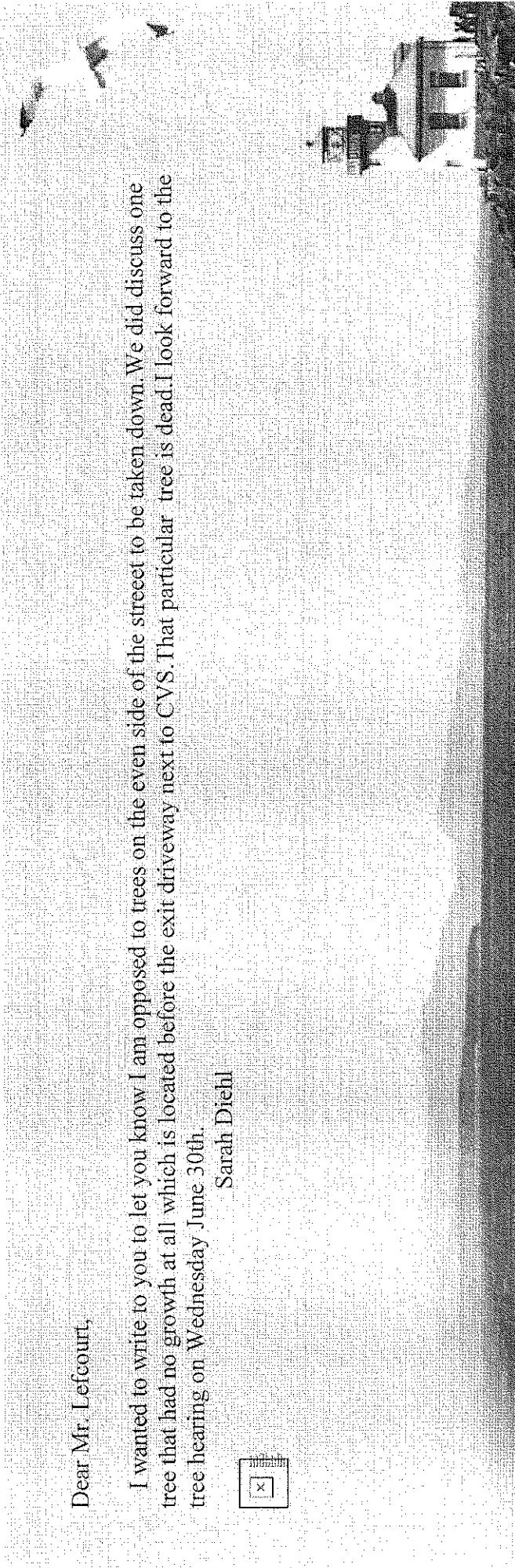
Lefcourt, David

From: Sarah Diehl [bigdeal231@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2010 10:22 AM
To: Lefcourt, David
Subject: Wheeler Street Tree

Dear Mr. Lefcourt,

I wanted to write to you to let you know I am opposed to trees on the even side of the street to be taken down. We did discuss one tree that had no growth at all which is located before the exit driveway next to CVS. That particular tree is dead. I look forward to the tree hearing on Wednesday June 30th.

Sarah Diehl



Sarah Diehl
25 Wheeler St. #313
Cambridge, Ma.

I object to a decision being

made before other information

can be submitted to David Hefner

Can we table the decision of

East side trees on Wheeler
Street?

Sarah Diehl

David LeFort
Arborist
City of Cambridge 02139

June 29, 2010

Dear David;

I hereby object to the removal
of the trees on Wheeler St, which
have been listed as 555 Concord Ave.

1. I oppose removing these 6 Ash Trees.

2. I request a second hearing -

~~or~~ postpone decision - for the
purpose of having the pertinent
documentation, maps, etc, that
show that this area is actually
a filled wetland & a Flood Plain
and to be able to present
witnesses or their affidavits
to demonstrate why these
trees should not be removed

Sincerely

Kathy Rodgers AS
148 Pearl St
Cambridge MA 02139

To: Cambridge City Arborist David Lefcourt
From: Tara Murray

June 30, 2010

Dear Mr. Lefcourt,

I am writing to object to the removal of all six of the trees at 555 Concord Avenue (Wheeler Street).

These trees are an investment in years of growth. New trees would not provide the shade, beauty, privacy, etc, that the existing trees provide.

There must be a way to keep these trees and still carry out the project. I attended the hearing where the trees on the west side of Wheeler Street were discussed. At that time, there was an initial attempt to label the trees as in terrible shape. They are not. This construction project should be done without removal of any of the trees on Wheeler (or Concord Ave.)

Tara Murray